

December 17, 2019

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Alder Creek Ranch Bank Stabilization Project

**ECM PIN CW-861647; WDID 1B190175WNSO
Sonoma County**

On September 30, 2019, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from John Green of the Goldridge Resource Conservation District on behalf of Elizabeth Hanlein (applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed Alder Creek Ranch Bank Stabilization Project (project).

Project Location

The project is located at 14726 Morelli Lane in Sebastopol, at latitude 38.4311°N and longitude 122.9507°W. The proposed project would cause disturbances to the north fork of Lancel Creek, tributary to Dutch Bill Creek in the Lower Russian River hydrologic area (114.11).

Project Description

The purpose of the project is to arrest bank erosion resulting from spillway discharge from an agricultural pond during high flows on the North Fork of Lancel Creek. The spillway was constructed so that the energy of flow exiting it into the creek is directed against the opposite bank and has caused significant erosion to this bank (Site A) over the approximately 40 years since the pond was constructed. The erosion has caused extension of a stream meander and has led to further erosion at the next two bends in the creek downstream of the main site (Sites B and C).

The project will excavate over steepened, unstable bank material at all three sites. Rock armor will be placed at Site A opposite the spillway. Vertical banks at Sites A and B will be excavated to a 2:1 bank angle and site C will be excavated to a 3:1 bank angle. A total of 100 cubic yards of rip rap armor ranging in size from 1.5 to 4 feet in diameter will be placed at Site A. The rock will be keyed into the base of the streambank. Larger rocks will be placed in the bottom of a 3-foot deep keyway and armor will become smaller with elevation. Armor will be placed along approximately 125 feet of streambank and 5 vertical feet up the bank. No armor will be placed at Sites B and C.

Approximately 250 willows sprigs will be planted between the three sites. Sprigs will be installed in rows at three feet on center with a minimum spacing of 2.5 feet, with four feet between rows, three rows total at each site extending nine feet up the slope. If there is sufficient funding, additional revegetation will be undertaken. All three sites will be fenced to exclude livestock approximately 15 feet away from the top of each

excavation. Livestock exclusion fencing will protect the stability of the banks and allow for natural regeneration of riparian vegetation.

Construction Timing

The project is expected to commence in the summer of 2020 when the stream is dry and will take approximately 2 weeks for the earthwork and 2 days of willow sprigging.

Impacts

Approximately 220 linear feet or 0.1 acre of streambank will be permanently impacted by the bank stabilization. Approximately 100 cubic yards of rip rap will be installed.

Mitigation for Project Impacts

No compensatory mitigation is required because the project is designed to arrest erosion of fine sediment to important salmonid habitat downstream and ecologically restore the site with stabilization of the slope and re-establishment of riparian vegetation.

Other Agency Permits

The applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a non-reporting Nationwide Permit 13, *Bank Stabilization*, pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The applicant has also submitted a section 1600 Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Board has determined that the project qualifies for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency Categorical Exemption, 15304: Minor Alterations to Land, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Kaete King at (707) 576-2848 or Kaete.King@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be

reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.

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